

Abstract of the Disclosure

Method and apparatus to effect synchronous data transfers in a disk controller, for example to and from a common buffer (52), when the data transfers to and from the individual disk drives (12,20) are actually asynchronous. A FIFO memory (26,28) is provided in the controller for each disk drive. Asynchronous data transfers between each drive and the corresponding FIFO use the timing provided by the respective drive (interfaces 16,24); whereas data transfers on the buffer side of the FIFOs (46,48) are effected synchronously (44,72). The availability of synchronous data transfers enables “on the fly” generation of redundancy information (FIG. 3) (in the disk write direction) and “on the fly” regeneration of missing data in the read direction (FIG. 4).